



Cai Guo-Qiang

Materials Without Boundaries

Shelagh Vainker
David Elliott

ISBN	9781910807354
Publisher	Ashmolean Museum
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	8.66 in x 11.02 in
Pages	88 Pages
Illustrations	71 color, 5 b&w
Price	\$20.00

- First catalog to cover the range of materials used by Cai Guo-Qiang, from gunpowder and paint on canvas, porcelain and silk
- Covers the artist's entire career to date
- Accompanies an exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum concluding on 19 April 2020

Cai Guo-Qiang is famous for his work with gunpowder explosions and fireworks, with which he has created spectacular displays in almost 30 countries, in the skies across Asia, Europe and America. This catalog not only shows the artist's skills and innovation in using silk, porcelain and other materials together with gunpowder, but also how he adapts them to explore his own central concerns of creation, destruction, chance and the cosmos.

Through gunpowder Cai has engaged with the environment in large-scale projects and with history in site-specific ones. These and other imaginative handlings of gunpowder sit within his work alongside the material's best-known manifestation – fireworks. He has depicted figurative images and human emotions with firework displays set against day and night skies, launched from buildings and rivers, and has also produced painterly designs on paper, canvas, silk, porcelain and, more recently, stone and glass. Cai is perhaps most widely recognized for the fireworks that played such a defining part in the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games.

Shelagh Vainker is Curator of Chinese Art at the Ashmolean Museum and Associate Professor of Chinese Art, University of Oxford.

David Elliott is a writer and curator. He has been Director of Modern Art Oxford, Moderna Museet Stockholm, and Istanbul Modern, and is currently Vice-Director and Senior Curator, RMCA Guangzhou.

